



**Black  
& Green  
Ambassadors**

## **Black & Green Ambassadors 2020 - 2023: Year Two report**

**Our Vision:** A world in which all people are equally leading, delivering and benefitting from environmentally and socially just communities.

**Our Mission:** To connect, empower and celebrate diverse leadership and community action on environmental issues in Bristol and beyond; challenging perceptions, creating new opportunities and working towards ensuring the environmental movement is inclusive and representative of all communities



Oct 2021 – Oct 2022:

## Year Two of the Black & Green Ambassadors programme

Year Two of the Black & Green Ambassadors programme launched in October 2021 with a new cohort of leaders supported to work with and between diverse communities, businesses, other organisations and individuals to explore, amplify and enable solutions leading to an environmentally and socially just future for all.

The Festival of the Future City event '[How do we all ensure meaningful inclusive action on climate change?](#)' celebrated the achievements of Year One Ambassadors (Asia Yousif, Olivia Sweeney and Roy Kareem) and introduced four new Ambassadors (Ella Scotland-Waters, Miss Divine, Rosina Al-Shaater and Ruth Nortey).

Although Ella was unable to complete the Ambassadorship, and the programme faced a number of operational challenges, the Ambassadors packed a huge amount of activity and development into their time. Training opportunities supported Ambassadors to develop new skills and knowledge, whilst their programme of radio shows, speaking opportunities and community engagement enabled them to explore issues of environmental and social justice, and promote grassroots activities and leadership.

This report shares just some of the highlights from their year and celebrates continued efforts in Bristol and beyond towards an environmental movement that is inclusive and representative of all communities.



Left to right: Miss Divine, Ruth Nortey, Rosina Al-Shaater, Ella Scotland-Waters in the studio at Ujima Radio



Left to right: Asia Yousif, Miss Divine, Ruth Nortey, Olivia Sweeney, Rosina Al-Shaater, Roy Kareem and Ella Scotland-Waters at Festival of the Future City, October 2021



# Connecting, empowering and celebrating



**50+ Ambassador engagements in events/activities**



**12 radio shows featuring 10 guests and reaching 30.1K+ listeners**



**2,142 Twitter followers**



**563 Facebook followers (2,414 reach)**



**737 Instagram followers (971 reach)**



**5K website visitors during the year**




**70+ attendees to the Save Money, Save the Planet workshop**





# The Black & Green Radio Show

Broadcast on the last Thursday of every month, Ambassadors celebrated grass-roots projects, amplified opportunities and stimulated debate with diverse voices around issues of environmental sustainability, equity, diversity and inclusion.





 **October: Ambassador handover** - Asia, Olivia and Roy (Year One Ambassadors) welcome the next cohort of Ambassadors, Ella Scotland-Waters, Miss Divine, Rosina Al-Shaater and Ruth Nortey


 **November: COP26 & Environmental Justice Heroes / Heroes** - Ella, Miss Divine, Rosina and Ruth talk about COP26 and their environmental heroes and heroes

 **December: Energy & Food** - Ambassadors discuss energy and food featuring vox pops from members of their community.

 **January: Energy, Food & community** - Ambassadors discuss a range of topics including energy prices and the impact on the community, the Oxford Real Farming Conference, Black people working with the land, local food growing initiatives and groups, and highlights from the Black & Green community event 'Save Money, Save the Planet'

 **February: Transport** - Ambassadors talk about Bristol Airport Expansion with Councillor Carla Denyer and discuss cycling, car sharing and other sustainable travel alternatives.

 **March: Energy & Women** - Ambassadors reflect on their community event 'Save Money, Save the Planet' and the energy crisis, interview Bristol Energy Network and talk about some inspiring women working towards a sustainable future for all.


 **April: Health & Wellbeing** - Ambassadors discuss access to good quality food, foraging, health & wellbeing and radical self-care in relation to nature, with special guest Elsie Harp from Davina Botanica





Listen to all the radio shows here: [www.blackandgreenambassadors.co.uk/radio-show/](http://www.blackandgreenambassadors.co.uk/radio-show/)





# The Black & Green Radio Show

 **May: Nature & Climate** – Ambassadors share highlights from the Climate Summit and talk about Festival of Nature & Green Social Prescribing

 **June: Food** – Ambassadors discuss the food industry and its impact on the planet; sustainable living and diet; healthy eating; access to good quality food; and related Bristol initiatives and organisations

 **July: Heatwave** – Ambassadors talk about the heatwave and share updates on their community-based research projects

 **August: Green Finance & Waste** – Miss Divine and Rosina talk about their community research projects and interview special guests from Triodos Bank on green finance and Bristol Waste

 **September: Round-up** – Miss Divine and Rosina talk about their highlights from their ambassadorship and meet Phoebe from NHS Forests, who fund tree planting initiatives at NHS sites. Ambassadors look ahead to the Blue Earth Summit event happening in October 2022 with a free ticket giveaway for listeners.



# Save Money, Save the Planet

In February 2022, over 70 attendees joined this community event at Kuumba Centre in St Pauls, where keynote speaker Lorraine Francis (Green Party Councillor) kick started a series of short talks and workshops led by experts and representatives of national and local organisations linked to energy and food.

The event offered food and family activities, shared energy saving tips and showcased initiatives happening across the city, with speakers and participants including Bristol Food Network, Bristol Energy Network, Feeding Bristol, Cold Homes Energy Efficiency Survey Experts (C.H.E.E.S.E.), Life Cycle UK and Empress Nikita.



 **Save money, save the planet**

A family-friendly day for Bristol's diverse communities to learn & share ways to:

-  save money
-  save the planet
-  better the quality of life for all

 **Saturday 26 February 2022, 12 - 4pm**

 **Kuumba Community Centre**

 Register your free spot:  
[www.bit.ly/SMSTP-26feb](http://www.bit.ly/SMSTP-26feb)



free food, music, children's activities, workshops, talks and more!

# Responding to the climate crisis

## Global Day for Climate Justice, November 2021

The Ambassadors connected with citizens and local organisations at the Global Day for Climate Justice march, meeting Bristol councillors Cllr Asher Craig and Cllr Hibaq Jama and interviewing attendees to be featured on their upcoming [COP26](#) themed radio show.



Ruth & Rosina at the Bristol Climate Rally, November 2021

“

*Ruth and I were part of a discussion panel exploring inclusive approaches to tackling climate change. We shared insights into the programme, its structure and aims and our work within this, in addition to our research projects. We gave advice on how other organisations can get involved and support communities that are often left out of the movement, by supporting members of these communities to take the lead. I learnt a lot listening to other people on the panel share their projects and knowledge.*

**Rosina on speaking at the Bristol Climate Summit, May 2022**

## Bristol Climate Summit, May 2022

Ruth and Rosina spoke at the Bristol Climate Summit hosted by Bristol Climate Justice Coalition, alongside speakers including Jeremy Corbyn and Trevor Ngwane from South Africa. They shared their experiences as climate campaigners, advocating for the climate movement to be inclusive and accessible to everybody, and highlighting the need for more Black and brown people and disabled people to be at the forefront of these discussions.

In the lead up to the summit, Ambassadors took part in a special Ujima Radio Climate Takeover radio show alongside politicians, local organisations and activists, Year One Ambassadors Roy, Olivia and Asia, and guests including Amirah Cole and Jeremy Corbyn.

# Working towards an inclusive and representative environmental movement

**Ambassadors speaking engagements included:** African Voices Forum, Oxford Real Farming Conference, Black Earth premier screening, Earth Day Campaign in partnership with Triodos Bank, The Land Justice UK Movement gathering in Devon, Outside In Project: Climate Justice discussion (online), International Conference on Environmental History at University of Bristol, The Art of Resistance: Final Frontier Festival at Trinity Centre, Future Leaps' Festival of Sustainable Business 2022 alongside Bristol City Council cabinet members, Triodos AGM, 'Revealed' Theatre Show at Tobacco Factory, the Big Tent Ideas Festival 2022 and Blue Earth Summit, Oct 2022.

**Collaborations with organisations including:** Stir To Action Festival, Triodos Bank, Wye Valley River Festival, Sunflower Collective C.I.C, Felix Road Adventure Playground and Spike Island enabled Ambassadors to connect with organisations and citizens from many diverse backgrounds, sectors and age groups. Activities included leading a workshop at Stir To Action Festival, participating in the Annual General Meeting and writing blogs for Triodos Bank, supporting nature workshops in Leigh Woods with Jamaican singer Vanessa Melody, and interviewing organisations such as Steppin Sistas and Bridging Communities.



“

*The purpose of this exercise was to openly discuss ways we can work together to understand each other's perspective and be more inclusive in our work. We reflected on accountability, open communication and distinguishing intentions from the impact of our actions. I had some great feedback afterwards, with many people telling me that they felt inspired to reflect on how their organisation could do things differently to have more of a meaningful impact and be more inclusive.*

**Rosina on delivering a workshop at Stir To Action festival, July 2022**



Miss Divine at Festival of Sustainable Business, June 2022

“

*This was my first experience doing public speaking on my own about climate justice. I had confidence issues which affected my ability to talk freely and coherently. But people came up to me afterwards and told me that they felt moved by what I had shared. Many people wanted to connect and talk about potential collaborations.*

**Rosina on speaking on a panel discussion at Art of Resistance: Final Frontier Festival, March 2022**



## Leadership skills & development

- Ambassadors benefited from training sessions dedicated to community engagement, goal setting, growth mindset, productivity techniques, strength building, and creating impactful content. Sessions were delivered by Manu Maunganidze (Nature Youth Connection Education), Roy Kareem (Year One Ambassador), Barney Grenfell (Ted Talk presentation coach) & Clara Fung (BGCP Coordinator).
- Leadership & Development training from Cllr Amirah Cole covered methods and tools needed and explored the impact of responsibilities of leadership when representing the needs of the community and trying to influence the agenda within a leadership role.
- Evaluation & Monitoring training with Jon Mulholland & Sanda Ismail (University of the West of England, Bristol) enabled Ambassadors to explore approaches to evaluation and impact assessment.
- Ambassadors developed their research ideas and received training on research techniques with Dr Alix Dietzel and Dr Alice Venn (University of Bristol) in addition to attending the 'Just Transition - Making Fair Decisions' training event which focused on fair decision-making that is inclusive and representative and explored how to tackle unconscious bias.
- The Stir To Action national programme provided training on a range of topics including: 'Psycho-social: An Introduction to Community Psychology' and 'Art of Invitation: Community Engagement & Media Training'.

“

*During the engagement training we learned that no community is the same and caution, common-sense and sensitivity must be applied before you go into a space to potentially bring a message or ask for the communication and participation of different cultural groups. I also learned that, if you are in a position of leadership, patience, understanding and respect must be applied when attempting to build relationships with communities and bring people together.*

**Miss Divine on community engagement training**

Year One Ambassador, Roy,  
leading a workshop with Year  
Two Ambassadors

## Community-based research

During the year, Ambassadors explored community-based research approaches to environmental justice issues and inequalities, enabling them to gather the evidence needed to advocate for change as well as identifying tangible solutions and showcasing grassroots approaches to environmental sustainability.

- Ruth's community-based research explored the connections to green spaces for parents with young children, undertaking interviews with a focus on disabled parents and people living with long term health conditions. During her Ambassadorship, Ruth's insights fed into the '[Not Just a Checkbox](#)' report produced by 'Your Park Bristol and Bath' on equitable access to parks for disabled people and unpaid carers.
- Rosina's research asked how connected do Black & Brown communities feel to nature? Exploring the conscious healing powers found in nature and how this can be accessed & incorporated into our lifestyles to promote holistic health & wellbeing (physical, mental, nutritional, medicinal & spiritual). Rosina recorded interviews and plans to release a podcast to share the stories gathered through her research.
- Miss Divine asked how we keep community streets clean - engaging with people to hear how they feel about how clean their area and parks look and what can we collectively do to change things. Supported by a visit to Bristol Waste, Miss Divine documented her research and plans to produce a video documentary to share learnings.





## What next...

Year Two Ambassadors have been developing several collaborations since finishing their year-long Ambassador posts in 2022 – and continue to be active speakers and participants in events and workshops in Bristol and further afield. Miss Divine and Rosina continue to host a radio show on Ujima Radio – sharing opportunities and showcasing local environmental and social justice projects.

Year One Ambassadors have continued to build on the connections, experience and insights gained during their year as Ambassadors. Asia started in a new role at Bridging Communities as Peace Feast Events Manager, connecting people of different cultures, races and faiths and gathering people around food and stories to build understanding and trust. Olivia's research on Clean Air was exhibited at the major M-Shed exhibition 'Think Global, Act Local' and Roy has since become a Director with 'Your Parks Bristol & Bath'.

In November 2021, Olivia and Roy joined a host of Bristol representatives in Glasgow and delivered a talk at the UNFCCC COP26 Global Action Hub, taking the Black & Green Ambassadors vision and mission to a global audience. Roy and Olivia have also joined the Bristol One City Environment Board and contribute to an inclusivity working group.

In December 2022, representatives involved in a range of Bristol's just transition work at a community level took part in a US Embassy organised and funded placement to the Washington DC, Albuquerque and Boston. Olivia Sweeney attended as a Black & Green Ambassador alumni, as part of a group of four Bristol representatives out of 12 in total for the whole of UK. The focus of the placement was Climate Exchange: Adaptation & Justice, with aims to advance environmental

[www.blackandgreenambassadors.co.uk/meet-the-ambassadors](http://www.blackandgreenambassadors.co.uk/meet-the-ambassadors)

justice - creating good-paying jobs, and spurring economic opportunity for marginalized communities, particularly those that have been historically disadvantaged and overburdened by pollution and underinvestment in housing, transportation, water and wastewater infrastructure, and health care.

In early 2023, the report '**Politics, voice and just transition: who has a say in climate change decision making, and who does not**' was published by University of Bristol – highlighting findings which emerged in a 2021 study in which Year One Ambassadors took part through interviews and observations (Authors: George Boss, Alix Dietzel, Dan Godshaw, and Alice Venn).



Roy and Olivia onstage at COP26, Glasgow, November 2021



Year 1 & Year 2 Ambassadors taking the stage at the Blue Earth Summit, October 2022

## Programme update, October 2022

“The world has changed significantly since the programme started, first with a pilot in 2017 and then with a successful bid to the National Lottery Community Fund in January 2020 for the upscaled programme. Amongst other issues, a global pandemic and the current cost of living crisis have had impacts on the context in which this programme exists and explores issues of environmental justice. The programme team and Ambassadors have consistently adapted to this rapidly changing context and have continued conversations reflecting these important themes with communities across Bristol.

After Year 2 of the programme, Ujima Radio and Bristol Green Capital Partnership have taken time to reflect and carefully consider the Black & Green Ambassadors programme and how we can best support the programme’s mission to “connect, empower and celebrate diverse leadership and community action on environmental issues in Bristol and beyond”, ensuring that learnings inform any future programmes. We will share the next steps as soon as we can.

We’d like to thank the year 1 and 2 Ambassadors, Asia, Olivia, Roy, Ella, Miss Divine, Rosina and Ruth for their brilliant efforts and everyone else who has been involved in supporting the project to date, including the National Lottery Community Fund, Year 1 and Year 2 sponsors, Bristol City Council, members of the steering group, Ujima Radio’s board and staff and BGCP’s board and staff.”

**Ujima Radio CIC & Bristol Green Capital Partnership CIC**



The three-year programme is made possible thanks to the support of the National Lottery Community Fund.



**With additional thanks:  
To our programme supporters:**



**To our Year Two sponsors:**



**To our Year Two contributors:**



[www.blackandgreenambassadors.co.uk](http://www.blackandgreenambassadors.co.uk)